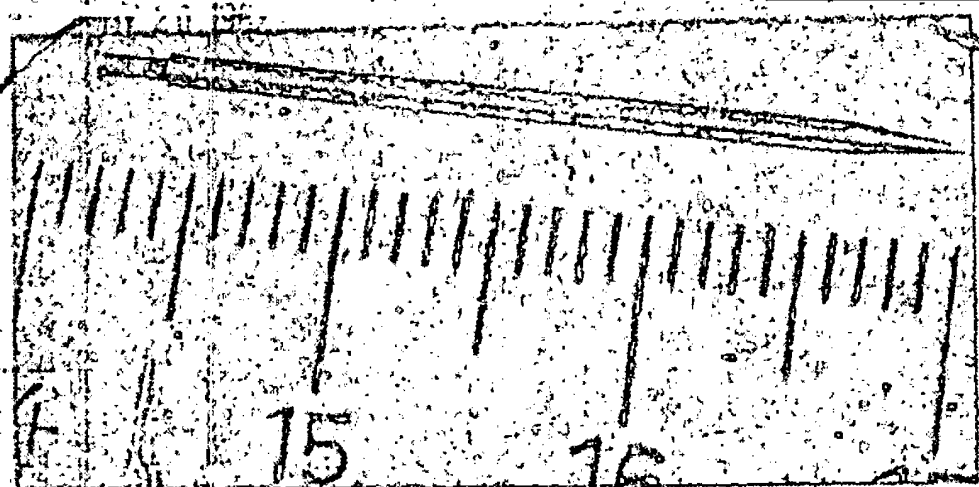


MORNING 34,532  
SUNDAY 53,745



This, the Soviets say, is the poison needle carried by Gary Powers.

## Gary And His U2

The U-2 Affair by David Wise  
and Thomas Ross; Random  
House, 269 pages; \$4.95.

By FREDERICK WHITTINGTON

The man, Francis Gary Powers, might be called ordinary. His mission, to fly secretly over Russia and make photographs, was extraordinary. His fate was historic, to say the least.

Two newspapermen have pooled their research into a rather complete account of the spy who tumbled from Soviet skies to the arms of an American lie, officially told and later confessed to the world by our President. The authors traveled many miles, examined many papers, talked to many persons. Their report, however, adds little to what regular readers of newspapers already knew about the U-2 affair.

Although the book fails to add much to known specifics about the mission that failed, it gives a closer, more personal look into the lives of the soft-spoken pilot and his distressed wife, Barbara. It also demonstrates how deeply the Central Intelligence Agency can involve itself in lives of individuals as well as in conduct of government.

Some Americans might have been pleased if Powers, at his showcase trial in Moscow, had said something suitably nationalistic and then faced the ensuing firing squad without flinching. Our pilot followed CIA orders instead of thriller plots, however.

He told the Russians what they already knew and apparently nothing else. As a consequence he came home as an unusual sort of hero—politely applauded but not envied, a brave man criticized by cowards.

The book gives us a step-by-step account of the affair from the moment Powers' U-2 left its base, through the crash (of a summit conference as well as the plane), the elaborate trial, and the delicate negotiations for his release in a spy for a spy transaction. After the book was in press, Barbara Powers was hospitalized for an overdose of sleeping pills. A reader of the book is not surprised, either by her act or by the fact that very few details have seeped through the CIA's continued curtain of evasion.